Production of Pulses

2011. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has drawn out plans to increase the yield of pulses through inter-cropping of cereals, cotton, sugarcane and oil seeds and targeting rice fallows of southern, eastern and central States;

(b) whether availability of pulses has fallen by drastic proportions in recent times and whether Government have decided to chalk out a programme for expanding the area under Kharif pulses by 8.0 million hectares and that under rabi pulses by 1.2 million hectares during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether Government propose introducing use of new technology to increase the per hectare yield of pulses to reduce imports dependency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation in 14 major pulses producing States to enhance the production and productivity of pulses. Further, with a view to enhancing the production of pulses in the country and achieve self-sufficiency, Government has proposed to launch a National Food Security Mission (NFSM) comprising rice, wheat and pulses in major growing States/districts during Eleven Plan. An area expansion of 2.47 million ha. through intercropping with pigeon pea, cereals, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, replacement of rainfed upland paddy during kharif and another 2.0 million ha. by-utilizing rice fallows in major rice growing States (in rabi) has been targeted during Eleventh Five Year Plan under NFSM-Pulses.

The requirement of pulses in the country is continuously increasing and the domestic production of pulses, despite various efforts has been unable to keep pace with the demand. In 2006-07 the production of pulses was 14.23 million tonnes against the requirement of 17.71 million tonnes.

The newly released high yielding varieties/hybrids of pulses developed by Indian Council of Agriculture Research/State Agriculture Universities system and International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) are being popularized through seed minikits. Further, Production technologies such as application of micronutrients (sulphur, zinc, boron etc.) in deficient soils, nutrition through bio-fertilizers, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), sprinkler irrigation, soil amelioration through application of gypsum/lime etc. are being promoted under ISOPOM for increasing the per ha. yield and production of pulses to reduce import dependence.

Ten-point programme for development of agricultrue

2012. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Ten-point Programme has been formulated for the development of agriculture and its related sectors in the 53rd meeting of National Development Council;

(b) whether it is also a fact that special emphasis has also been given on increasing the investment in the field of agriculture; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The NDC Resolution of 29th May, 2007 has identified 7 action points each, to be undertaken by the Central and State Governments for the Agriculture sector. Details are at Statement *{See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir. The need for introducing a new Additional Central Assistance Scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture to incentivize the States to draw up plans for their agriculture sector more comprehensively was emphasized.

(c) Guidelines of the scheme are being finalized.

Statement

Seven action point to be undertaken by Central and State Government for Agricultural sectors

"The Natonal Development Council resolves that agricultural development strategies must be reoriented to meet the needs of the farmers and calls upon the Central and the State Governments to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. The NDC reaffirms its commitment to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the Eleventh plan and, towards this end, resolves that the following steps will be taken by the Central and State Governments:

Actions to be taken by the Central Government

(1) Launch a Food Security Mission covering wheat, rice and pulses as a Central scheme aimed at producing over the next four years an additional 8 million tones of wheat, 10 million tones of rice and 2 million tones of pulses over the base year (triennium ending 2006-07).

(2) Introduce a new Additional Central Assistance scheme to incentivise States to draw up plans for their agriculture sector more comprehensively, taking agro-climatic conditions, natural resource issues and technology into account, and integrating livestock, poultry and fisheries more fully. This will involve a new scheme for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State Plans, administered by the Union Ministry of Agriculture over and above its existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, to supplement the State-specific strategies including special schemes for beneficiaries of land reforms. The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority will on request assist States in planning for rainfed areas.

(3) Provide additional resources for irrigation via AIBP, including a component on modernization, linked to adoption of improved participatory irrigation management and command area development. Schemes involving linkages of rivers within a State could also be considered for AIBP.

(4) Give the national agriculture research effort a strategic focus by providing additional resources for the National Strategic Research Fund under the Ministry of Agriculture with a governance and implementation structure appropriate to fund Universities, CSIR laboratories and private institutions besides ICAR. Additional funding will also be provided to support regionally focused research projects in State Agricultural Universities.

(5) Restructure the pattern of RIDE funding by NABARD and replace the present pattern of year by year fund allocation by State-wise indicative allocations for the entire Eleventh Plan period, which will keep in mind the needs of States with low rural credit-deposit ratios. Activities eligible for funding will be reviewed in the light of the needs identified in State agriculture plans for potential growth areas like horticulture, livestock, poultry and fishery including infrastructure for these areas.

(6) Initiate steps to restructure the fertilizer subsidy programme and its delivery to the farmer, and move to a system that provides balanced plant nutrition without adverse effects on soils. The use of bio-fertilizers, organic manure and micro-nutrients to enhance soil healthwill be promoted.

(7) Take new initiatives to improve skill development in the farming community, including training of farmers in modern methods of agriculture as well as imparting skills relevant for non-agricultural activity.

Actions to be taken by State Governments:

(1) Formulate District plan for each District that fully utilizes resources available from all existing schemes, State or Central, including resources at the district level from schemes such a BRGF and NREG. The District agricultural plan will include livestock and fishing and be integrated with minor irrigation projects, rural development works and with other schemes for water harvesting and conservation. Each State Government will set up appropriate unit(s) at District level for this purpose.

(2) Prepare a State agricultural plan based on district plans aimed at achieving the State's agricultural growth objective, keeping in view the sustainable management of natural resources and technological possibilities in each agro-climatic region. Each State will ensure that the baseline share of agriculture in its total State Plan expenditure is at least maintained, and upon its doing so, it will be able to access the new ACA to meet the Central contribution to the expenditure on the agricultural plan beyond the base line.

(3) Make special efforts to complete all projects taken up under AIBP without time and cost overrun and prioritize irrigation projects in consonance with their agriculture production targets. States will make special efforts to ensure better water management and enhance water use efficiency.

(4) Accord the highest priority to seed production so that adequate supply of quality seeds of relevant major crops and fodder is available at reasonable prices and at the right time. This is necessary to improve seed replacement rates, which help reduce yield gaps. There should be close liaison between State Governments and State agricultural universities or ICAR institutions for ensuring production of seeds of varieties suitable for each agro climatic region. Public Private partnership between SAUs, State departments concerned and public sector for varietal development can be considered.

(5) Undertake a major expansion and revamping of State agricultural extension systems. This will involve the State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and include support animal resources development, expansion of soil testing capacity in each district and facilities to test input quality. The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode should be used wherever possible.

(6) Expedite signing of the MoU (if not done so far) for early implementation of the Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations and set monitorable deadlines for meeting the commitments so that the cooperative credit structure can be revamped.

(7) Encourage development of modern markets by completing the process of amending the APMC Act and notify the rules thereunder, and also encourage development of linkages to markets through a variety of instruments including co-operatives of farmers, contract farming and other means preferred by the States. The process of notifying rules under the amended APMC legislation should be completed during 2007-08.

Concrete proposals to implement these steps will be spelt out in detail as quickly as possible both by the Central Government and by the State Government."

Contribution of States in core sector plans

2013. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether States are expected to contribute some share of the plans, especially in core sectors like agriculture, they draw up to access the Centra! funds;

(b) if so, whether guidelines exist that States should follow for credible strategies and programmes for achieving their targets in respect of production of foodgrains, pulses, edible oil, etc.; and

(c) what are the national targets for production of foodgrains, pulses, edible oil, etc. for the year 2007-08?